

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 7, 2009
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Jessie Hoagland
Ira Berkowitz	Robert Kerr
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Judy Goodman	Mark Winings
Rosemary Hardy	

Excused/Absent

Dick Hyde
Omri Praiss

Also present:

Chris Cholley
Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder
Liz Hickox
Patrick Magee
Darren Noelken
Jason Quinton

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the November 2 meeting were approved with one correction.

Addresses from the Audience

Mr. Rick Beard addressed the audience and asked the Commission for their support of a petition to rename Shaw Park Aquatic Center as the Wally Lundt Water Sport Complex. He spoke about Mr. Lundt's long time service as a swim coach in Clayton and his impact on the community. Mr. Beard would like to have a plaque with Mr. Lundt's photo and name on it in front of the aquatic center. He designed a petition and has obtained 50 signatures. Please refer to the attached petition for details regarding changing the name of the pool.

Ms. DeForrest stated that the Commission will take this information under advisement. She will also look into the City of Clayton's policies as far as re-naming facilities in Clayton.

End of Season Reports

Parks and Recreation supervisors presented Shaw Park Tennis Center and Aquatic Center end of season reports to the Commission. (Please see that attached Power Point Presentation handout for additional details)

The Shaw Park Tennis Center report – This report was presented by our Athletic and Facilities Supervisors, Mr. Darren Young and Ms. Liz Hickox. The highlights of their presentation included the following:

- Increased revenue during the tennis season.
- Offered additional contractual programs taught by tennis pros; these contractual clinics did result in higher expenditures because the contractors receive 70% of the revenue. Specialized programs are a huge draw to the community so the 70% - 30% split is seen as a net positive.
- \$44,000 was generated by in house camps; each class is approximately \$75-\$80 per participant.
- Unexpended repairs cost \$4,868.
- Season pass sales increased due to additional platinum pass sales.
- 2,000 individuals used the facility during open hours. A Tennis Center Attendant works during peak hours. This staff member handles emergencies, answers phone calls, monitor court usage and cleanliness of the Tennis Center. They also keep tallies of members or

guests who use the Tennis Center during open hours. Approximately half of the Tennis Center usage takes place when the facility is not staffed. It is important to note that most communities do not staff their courts and do not have a facility like our Tennis Center.

- There were 22 rainouts this season.
- The Community Alliance held a tournament that was dedicated to Ms. Jackie Levine who passed away earlier this year. She was well-known tennis player who was very involved with tennis programs in the community. The tournament raised \$2,000. Half of the proceeds go towards enhancing youth program in Clayton.
- We received the USTA Welcome Center award for the first time. This has given us a great deal of public recognition, including the USTA hosting a national tournament in Clayton in August of 2010. This will bring a lot of people to Clayton which will benefit Clayton businesses. USTA does a great job of branding tennis in the United States.
- In 2010 we will offer a 50+ Tennis program with OASIS.
- Lessons will begin early this year and Single Flex Leagues will also be available in 2010.

Shaw Park Aquatic Center Report – This report was presented by our Aquatic Supervisor and our Assistant Aquatic Supervisor, Mr. Jason Quinton, Mr. Chris Cholley and Mr. Patrick Magee. The highlights of their presentation included the following:

- 2009 was a record year for us in season pass sales. We saw a 22% increase in these sales.
- Daily admissions dropped and this is being attributed to some weather conditions. This tends to happen when season pass sales increase.
- Rental revenue was good – many people utilized the pool for birthday parties and other gatherings.
- Some expenses were incurred due to maintenance repairs and the increased cost of chemicals. The water bill also increased. A \$5,000 water bill came in October so it affected our year end financials in September.
- Mr. Magee presented some facts about weather condition in Missouri this summer. He noted that this was the 12th coldest summer on record in Missouri.
- Ms. DeForrest stated that we have reached our saturation level at the pool. This is due to increased non-resident season pass sales. We primarily want the pool to be for our residents. The Commission will have to consider putting a cap on non-resident season pass sales in future.
- We saw an increase in residential family passes at the pool and the Center. This can be attributed to a soft economy. People likely stayed close to home this summer.
- Lap swimming hours were extended to 10:00 pm.
- Mr. Quinton stated that we have a great system at the pool and the water quality is excellent.
- The Dock (Shaw Park Aquatic Center Concession stand) cleanliness improved dramatically, new customer service training was implemented, new menu items were added and they went “Green”. Staff sold about 300 reusable souvenir mugs.
- Mr. Cholley stated that there was a decrease in programming revenue at the Aquatic Center due to the fact that they had to omit a few of their camps.
- New programs will be implemented in 2010.
- Private lessons revenue went down; however they were only offered in the morning and not when the pool was open to the public.
- This was our safest season ever! Our staff is top notch. Our lifeguard staff goes through extensive training and attends many blitz trainings throughout the year. We were recently audited by the Red Cross and received a perfect score.
- All cleaning supplies are now environmentally friendly.
- The mock rescue and Lifeguard Appreciation events were a success.

Year End Budget Review

Please refer to the attached report for all details. Our sport league enrollment is very consistent so revenue was good. In Fund 70 there was a \$600,000 transfer from the Parking Fund. Benches made from recycled materials were purchased for the Shaw Park Shelters. Fees were also incurred

with tree maintenance; we contract out our tree maintenance because we do not have foresters on our park staff. We made the final payment for the golf course at Ruth Park.

Old Business / New Business

Ms Judy Goodman discussed plans for the Ice Rink and Hanley House. She asked the Commission to make a recommendation to the Board of Alderman asking for a budget amendment, to increase it by \$50,000 in order to hire an architecture firm to create venue drawings for the Hanley House and the Ice Rink; \$25,000 for each site rendering. Amendments are made to the budget on a quarterly basis. The need to have a design piece is crucial when asking the community to assist us in funding these types of projects. We have three renderings of the Ice Rink but public input was not part of the process of putting these drawings together. Part of this process of putting these plans together would include getting public engagement from the community. Further, taking this next step will definitely help when we are asking members of the community to help us fund building an auxiliary building at the Hanley House and update the Ice Rink because we will have drawing to show them exactly what we are planning. The goal is to gather consensus from having design charrette. Mr. Schneider made a motion asking that the BOA to amend the 2010 budget by \$50,000 to hire a consultant to design preliminary drawings for the Ice Rink and Hanley House. Mr. Kerr seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

The plan would be to issue an RFQ, select a consultant and begin work in March or April. The project would likely take about three months to complete. This will give us a vision and a fresh look at these facilities. We will be much better equipped to ask for partnerships when these projects are completed.

Ms. Hardy handed out a flyer about the Hanley House Candlelight tours the week of December 14th.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Denise Ucinski